

Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services (MCRS)



DRAFT Quarterly Business Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2022, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), in-person attendees met at the Disability Network Capital Area, 901 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing, MI 48910 and virtual attendees participated via Microsoft Teams.

Call to Order

Chairperson, Carol Bergquist, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Member Roll Call

Tiffany Burge read the roll call. A quorum was present.

Council Members Attending In-Person:

Carol Bergquist, Chair, Kellie Blackwell, Tiffany Burge, Secretary; Todd Culver, Karen Schulz, Jackie Tahtinen

Council Members Attending Virtually:

Kimberly Barrington (Byron Center, MI), Lisa Cook-Gordon (Melvin, MI), Steve Locke (Auburn, MI)

Council Members Excused:

Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair and Travar Pettway

Council Members Absent:

None

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Tina Fullerton – MRS (East Tawas, MI)

Bill Robinson – BSBP (Ingham Co., MI)

APPROVED 11/10/2022

DSU Liaisons Present:

Lisa Kisiel – BSBP

Eric Bachmann – MRS (Traverse City, MI)

MCRS Support Present:

Alicia Kirkey – Dept of Labor & Economic Opportunity, Employment & Training

Partner Guest:

Elham Jahshan, of the Client Assistance Program, is attending the meeting today and providing a partner report. She has applied for reappointment to the Council and is awaiting a response from the Governor's Office Appointment Office.

Guests:

Mike Pemble – BSBP

Amie Weber – MRS

John Sloat – Disability Rights Michigan

Introductions by Members, DSU Representatives, and Guests

All in attendance introduced themselves and their role on the Council.

Approval of Proposed Agenda (Attachment 1)

Todd Culver moved to approve the 9/8/2022 Proposed Agenda with support from Karen Schulz. Motion put to a roll call vote. Secretary Tiffany Burge called the vote.

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Carol Bergquist, Chair	Yes	Lisa Cook-Gordon	Yes
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	Excused Absence	Steve Locke	Yes
Kimberly Barrington	Yes	Travar Pettway	Excused Absence
Kellie Blackwell	Yes	Karen Schulz	Yes
Tiffany Burge	Yes	Jackie Tahtinen	Yes
Todd Culver	Yes		

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Business Meeting Minutes (Attachment 2)

Kellie Blackwell moved for approval of the 5/12/2022 Business Meeting Minutes with support from Tiffany Burge. Motion put to a roll call vote. Secretary Tiffany Burge called the vote.

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Carol Bergquist, Chair	Yes	Lisa Cook-Gordon	Yes
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	Excused Absence	Steve Locke	Yes
Kimberly Barrington	Yes	Travar Pettway	Excused Absence
Kellie Blackwell	Yes	Karen Schulz	Yes
Tiffany Burge	Yes	Jackie Tahtinen	Yes
Todd Culver	Yes		

Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of FY2023 Business Meeting Schedule (Attachment 3)

Carol Bergquist presented the FY2023 meeting schedule and opened the floor for discussion and questions. Proposed FY2023 MCRS Business Meetings Schedule:

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Thursday, August 10, 2023

Thursday, February 9, 2023

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Carol Bergquist suggested to change the 11/3/2022 to 11/10/2022 due to conflicts with upcoming conferences. Several members supported this change. The council considered if the alternate date of 8/10/23 would be needed since there would be a September 2023 meeting. The council proposed keeping both the August and September 2023 dates. If FY2023 council business is concluded with the August 10, 2023 meeting, then whether or not the September 7, 2023 meeting is needed can be determined at the August 2023 meeting. There being no further discussion or questions, Todd Culver moved to approve the FY2023 Business Meeting Schedule with the suggested change of the November 2022 meeting date. Motion supported by Karen Schulz. Motion put to roll call. Secretary Tiffany Burge called the vote.

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Carol Bergquist, Chair	Yes	Lisa Cook-Gordon	Yes
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	Excused Absence	Steve Locke	Yes
Kimberly Barrington	Yes	Travar Pettway	Excused Absence
Kellie Blackwell	Yes	Karen Schulz	Yes
Tiffany Burge	Yes	Jackie Tahtinen	Yes
Todd Culver	Yes		

Motion passed unanimously.

Resource Plan (Attachments 4 and 5)

The updated FY2022 Resource Plan and Proposed FY2023 Resource Plan were presented by Amie Weber, State Administrative Manager, MRS, and opened the floor for discussion and questions. Carol discussed that MCRS FY 2023 budgets for four (4) members at all conferences. There is also room in the budget for a vendor booth at the Re:con Conference. A question of capacity for staff support was raised. Alicia Kirkey indicated if she needs help, she will reach out to her management and request additional support. Todd Culver asked if the MCRS emails has been implemented. Carol Bergquist and Alicia Kirkey explained it is being re-implemented. Alicia is currently working with IT. There being no further discussion or questions, Todd Culver moved to approve the FY2023 MCRS Resource Plan with no changes. Motion supported by Karen Schulz. Motion put to a roll call vote. Secretary Tiffany Burge called the vote.

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Carol Bergquist, Chair	Yes	Lisa Cook-Gordon	Yes
Brent Mikulski, Vice Chair	Excused Absence	Steve Locke	Yes
Kimberly Barrington	Yes	Travar Pettway	Excused Absence
Kellie Blackwell	Yes	Karen Schulz	Yes
Tiffany Burge	Yes	Jackie Tahtinen	Yes
Todd Culver	Yes		

Motion passed unanimously.

Partner Reports

Disability Rights Michigan Quarterly Report (Attachment 6) – Elham Jahshan (Attachment 5).

Michigan Alliance for Families – Tiffany Burge (Attachment 7)

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) – Steve Locke – No report at this time.

Incompass Michigan – Todd Culver (Attachment 8)

Developmental Disability Council (DD Council) – Not present. No report submitted.

DSU Updates

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) - Director Tina Fullerton:

Amie Weber – MRS was fully matched in 2022. Case services authorizing about 5% higher than last year. Pre-ETS reserve (15% VR federal funds) carryover about \$5 million to spend in FY2023. This is a decrease from previous years. Updates for new FY2023, federal grant increase to \$6.4 million, predicts \$1.7 million in non-federal match. About \$400,000 less from partners in FY2023. Not enough match to collect federal award.

Comments/Questions:

- Carol Bergquist offered help with marketing partnerships to other tribes.
- Elham Jahshan asked if any plan to hire more counselors for schools. Tina explained they are looking at allocations.

FY2022 applicants are up by 2,200 compared to last year. Eligibility increased by 2,100. Individualized plans for employment increase of about 1,400. Placement into competitive integrative employment is about 500 more than last year. Maintained jobs & closed cases for 500 more individuals.

An e-signature pilot program for the Vocational Rehabilitation process is started in some areas. Rates available on website are up to date, individual and group rates for two or more. Some adjustments made for inflation, increase about 3%. FY'23 rates

will get increase of about 7%. Upcoming meeting for pre-ETS vendors regarding rates on September 29, 2022. Todd Culver asked for clarification on description of services for rates. Eric said the description is available on the website for the rates.

Tina Fullerton mentioned the CSAVR draft agenda is on website for next year.

MRS will continue to work with MSU for Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment.

MCTI currently has 106 enrolled, looking to increase next term. 41 graduates next week. Primary disability is autism spectrum disorder (ASD), at 43.6% of students. Leading referral sources is Oakland Co, Macomb Co, and Detroit. Career assessments being done online before students come on campus. 60+ customers ready for September 26, 2022 assessment. Parking lot & roof replacement are complete. Printing program received a new press. MCTI adopted a balanced calendar. MCRS would like to have their November 2022 meeting at MCTI and have time to talk with students.

Elham Jahshan requested a report from MRS in writing before MCRS meetings.

Bureau of Services for Blind Person (BSBP) - Bill Robinson, Director (attachment 9):

Mike Pemble, Administrative Services division, gave budget & modernization updates.

BSBP's budget continues to be on plan. BSBP did not ask for reallocation funds for its FY22 grant year; however, BSBP did request additional ILOB funds of up to \$300,000 but did not receive any additional ILOB funds. BSBP will be adequately matched with State funding to allow it to fully access its FY22 federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) grant award and Independent Living (IL) grants.

BSBP presentation interrupted for Public Comment.

Public Comment 11:30 a.m.

Tiffany Burge read the guidelines for public comment and called for public comment. There was no public comment.

DSU Updates (continued)

Bureau of Services for Blind Person (BSBP) report continued (attachment 8):

BSBP has several modernization projects underway including modernizing IT resources to use current technology to create organizational efficiency, continuing with implementation of its multi-year IT Modernization Project that includes upgrades to its Business Enterprise Program Case Management System and several other projects outlined in their attached report.

Field Services reported for the period April 1 to June 30, 2022. This would be the 3rd Quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2022 or the fourth quarter of program year (PY) 2021 covering VR Priorities for FY22, Pre-ETS Priorities for FY22, Adult Services, Services Challenges, Pre-ETS Highlights and Pre-ETS Challenges

BSBP Training Center reported 3-year census data; FY20-21 and FY 22 partial data through 6/30/2022. Three-year enrollment for FY2020 156 served, FY2021 145 served, and FY2022 125 served. Highlights at the Training Center were a STEM camp held in August, the largest to-date, two-day Community Partner Day Event including representatives from nine different Community Rehab Partners, Equal Opportunity (EO) training at the TC campus which included statewide EO Officers from Michigan Works Association, an in-person open house for transition youth and their families, For further details, refer to the attached BSBP DSU Update.

Working Lunch break 12:00-12:30

Unfinished Business

Council member vacancies and term expirations 2022: Carol Bergquist notified the governor's office and reminded them they can appoint for three years, not just two. Minimum of 15 voting members required on the council. Currently, there are eleven sitting council members and four vacancies. The vacant council position representing Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and appointed by the State Superintendent, is usually the Transition Coordinator. Carol has reached out to MDE regarding this vacancy. There are two vacancies for Business, Industry & Labor and the position held by a member of the Michigan Workforce Development Board. One member, whose term expired 12/31/21, is re-applying.

There are seven members whose term will be expiring 12/31/22. Five of those members are eligible for reapplication; one has decided not to reapply, and one is ineligible to reapply.

There will be four membership terms that will expire 12/31/23.

Any member seeking to reapply, needs to reapply through the Governor's Appointment Office to be re-appointed by governor.

Dr. Kimberly Barrington, whose term expires 12/31/22, shared that she is running for State Representative of the 79th District and will not be reapplying to the council. She thanked the council members for all that she has learned during her time on the council. She plans to take that information to the next level and be able to help shape legislation for the diversability population. Other members expressed gratitude to Dr. Kimberly for her service to the council.

MCTI Focus Groups: Carol Bergquist talked about the focus group MCRS members attended at MCTI regarding adopting a new balanced calendar. Members met with groups from MCTI student government, culinary arts, and mixed trades. Good to

meet students. Good discussions with the participants. Council member Jackie Tahtinen reminded the council that it is one of the eight mandates of the council to find out what the consumers that the DSUs are serving are saying about their services and their needs. The focus groups were a perfect opportunity to hear of their experiences. The students were very engaged, completed the surveys in advance of the meetings and were willing to share their views.

MCTI did adopt a balanced a calendar.

New Business

Annual Report: Carol Bergquist discussed the MCRS Annual Report. This report is in conjunction with BSBP and MRS. There is a team consisting of the MCRS Chair and Vice Chair, and the DSUs. It is due the end of December. Work on this report will begin shortly. Any council members wanting to participate on this report, contact Carol Bergquist.

Work Teams: Carol Bergquist stated that in the past, work teams were facilitated by two full time staff. This is a lot of work for a volunteer council to dedicate time to this activity. There is nothing in the mandates referencing work groups. This council has done well with ad hoc teams (i.e., bylaws development, etc.). There is a lot of flexibility in the verbiage of the council bylaws. In the future, we will construct ad-hoc teams as needed.

Carol Bergquist recommended that the Executive Team investigate this topic before next meeting and make a recommendation on work teams versus ad hoc teams.

Travel Policy (Attachment 10): Alicia Kirkey shared there is a change in our travel agent contact email address. She has updated the travel reimbursement guidelines and provided to the members with the meeting materials.

Fall Conferences:

CSAVR Conference – Bill Robinson, Tina Fullerton. 10/29-11/2/22 in-person in San Antonio, TX.

National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB) – Bill Robinson. 11/2-11/4/22 in-person in San Antonio, TX.

ReCon Conference – Todd Culver. 10/31-11/2/22, in Traverse City, MI.

Planning for Member Engagement in FY2023 and beyond.

Todd Culver discussed that it is helpful to have the information regarding expiring terms, eligibility, and a member's intent to continue service would be helpful. Also include the affiliation the council member represents. Member Engagement would like to reach out to each member for input on what to bring to the council, especially associated with their representation on the council. Review of customer satisfaction is a critical charge of the council. Member Engagement will also be seeking feedback from council members to help the council do our job and serve consumers more effectively. We would like to report out at our next meeting and have plan in place by the end of the calendar year.

Carol Bergquist also brought up that there will be new members joining. If anyone has recommendations for members, Carol is happy to have a discussion with them.

Presentation: Michigan Assistive Technology Program (Attachment 11)

Kellie Blackwell, Co-Director, Michigan Disability Rights Coalition presented about life, work, and play with assistive technology. Assistive Technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, software, or app that is used to help people with disabilities, including older adults, do what they want to do. Technology can make things easier for everyone. For people with disabilities, AT opens up possibilities. AT can assist with GPS location, calls, fall detection, real time navigation, text messages and emergency

SOS via a smart watches and phones. Alexa or Google can be used to assist with timers, alarms, schedules and reminders, even to operate lights, appliances, etc. AT can assist with mental health by reducing anxiety with reminders and organization, with cooking by using visual cookbooks, auto stove shut offs, talking meat thermometers, medication reminders, and more. AT can help with transportation by using apps that track route schedules, schedule rides, etc.

A growing area of AT is that of sports and hobbies. AT can assist with reading by means of braille and Talking Library books, arts and crafts, camping, sports, and even ebikes. Request a demo or loan of devices, by calling the Michigan Assistive Technology Program at 800-578-0280 or request a demo <https://tinyurl.com/MATPDemoRequest>.

Wrap Up

Carol thanked our partners for their presentations. She is pleased that we have a FY2023 schedule approved. The next meeting will be November 10, 2022, hopefully at the Michigan Career and Technical Institute. That location will need to be confirmed since the date has changed from November 3 to November 10.

Business Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business, Carol Bergquist adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Upcoming FY 2023 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Thursday, February 9, 2023

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Thursday, August 10, 2023

Thursday, September 7, 2023